GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2471
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2000
MEETING WITH DIRECTOR OF FEATURE FILM WATER
MOHAN RAWALE;PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the director of feature film `Water` recently met him;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the subject-matter of her representation/discussions and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF TH
DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT
(SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) (b)&(c) Yes sir. The proposal for grant of permission for shooting the film `Water` by M/s Flagship International Limited from Canada was approved by this Ministryaccording to procedure prescribed for shooting in India, either wholly or partly by foreigners, which is laid down in the Visa Manual of the Ministry of External Affairs.Permission was granted to the company by letter of 6th January 2000 after due consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The State Government of Uttar Pradesh conveyed that there were protests byorganizations and persons in Varanasi about the content of the script and suggested re- examination of the script by the Govt. of India. As per the procedure prescribed forshooting of feature films in India by foreigners, any material deviations in the approved script require prior permission of this Ministry. Accordingly, Ms Deepa Mehtaapproached the Ministry for approval of a revised version of the script with certain amendments/deletions and dialogues in Hindi. Approval of the Government wasaccorded to the amended version on 2.2.2000. Shooting was resumed on 5th February but due to continued demonstrations by several organisations and groups of persons causing a law and order problem in the city, the District Administration ordered stoppage of shooting for 15 days under Section 144 Cr. P.C. by their order of 7th February 2000.

Approval is granted by this Ministry to the applicant subject to a condition that shooting on locations would be with the prior permission of respective controlling authorities. The permission to shoot in Varanasi is subject to the District Administration`s permission.